

## **New facility on nutraceuticals, functional foods at CFTRI**

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Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, in partnership with the State Department of IT, Biotechnology and Science and Technology is establishing a Nutra-Phyto Incubation Centre and Common Instrumentation facility (NPIC-CIF) on its campus here.

The project aims to improve industries in the emerging areas of nutraceuticals and functional foods, which are beneficial to human health.

The NPIC-CIF is one of the first such centres in the country for promoting nutraceutical research, according to CFTRI.

The proposed facility will aid the development of innovative products and technologies by establishing world-class laboratories, pilot plant facilities, and safety studies for entrepreneurs, self-hep groups and Small and Medium Enterprises.

The facility will also be made available to farmers for primary and secondary processing of agri-produce for value addition, a press release said here.

The primary mission of the NPIC-CIF is to create a world-class hub to catalyse research in the area of nutraceuticals, to support the growth of the 'wellness industry' in Karnataka.

The announcement of the centre was made at the CSIR-CFTRI Foundation Day here on Tuesday. Tanushree Deb Barma, Managing Director, Karnataka Biotechnology and Information Technology Services, government of Karnataka, spoke about the NPIC-CIF.

The role of food in maintaining wellness of the body is well established and there is a huge potential for nutraceuticals the world over. As food alone may not meet all the nutritional needs of the body, supplementation with non-nutrients such as antioxidants, pre-biotics and probiotics have become essential, the release stated.

### **Global market**

The proposed centre is expected to give a boost to taking traditional and non-traditional nutraceuticals into the global market with scientific evidence. CFTRI has extensively contributed towards understanding the biochemical, nutritional and functional aspects of spices and other plant materials.

Some of the works by scientists at CFTRI on turmeric, red pepper, black cumin, fenugreek, ginger and swallow root for various human ailments are well acclaimed. In this scenario, CFTRI would be able to steer the project with its vast expertise and resources in the area of basic and applied sciences related to health and wellness, the release said.

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**• *New centre aims to create a world-class hub to catalyse research and innovations in the area of nutraceuticals to support the growth of wellness industry in Karnataka***

**• *The proposed centre is expected to give a boost in taking the traditional and non-traditional nutraceuticals into global market with proven scientific evidence***

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